

NOTE ON PACHYRHAMPHUS ALBINUCHA, BURMEISTER.

BY

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For some 17 years there has been in the collection of the U. S. National Museum, a bird-skin labeled with the above name, received from Dr. Burmeister himself. This name I have been unable to find in any work where it would be expected to occur, even the "Argentine Ornithology" of Messrs. Selater and Hudson mentioning it but casually in the bibliographical appendix, while Dr. Selater's catalogue of the Oligomyodæ ("Catalogue of the Birds in the British Museum," vol. XIV) absolutely ignores it. This seems very remarkable in view of the fact that the bird was clearly described as long ago as 23 years (P. Z. S., 1868, p. 635), and is so conspicuously distinct from anything else, though resembling superficially in coloration *Pachyrhamphus cinereus* (Bodd.).

Pachyrhamphus albinucha, having a pycnospidian tarsus, is a member of the family *Cotingidae*; but it is so different in other points of its structure from the typical members of the genus in which it was placed by its describer that there can be no question it does not belong there. In fact, the normal size and form of the second primary necessitates its removal from the subfamily *Tityriinae*. According to the characters used by Dr. Selater for the classification of these birds, it would seem to belong to the subfamily *Lipangiinae*; but on comparison with the various genera in this and other "subfamilies" it is found to approach more nearly to *Casiornis* in structure than to any other. The differences, however, from *Casiornis*, are so numerous and so great, that there seems to be no resource but to establish a new genus for its reception. I, therefore, propose as the name for the new genus the name *Xenopsaris*.

The characters of the genus and its type species are as follows:

Xenopsaris, genus novum Cotingidarum. (Type, *Pachyrhamphus albinucha* Burmeister.)

GEN. CHAR.: Similar to *Casiornis* Bp., but bill very much smaller, narrower, and more elevated at the base, with culmen gradually curved throughout its length; nasal and rictal bristles much less developed; tail nearly as long as the wing, emarginate and rounded (*i. e.*, double-rounded), the feathers rather narrow; primaries exceeding secondaries by more than length of bill; the second, third, and fourth quills nearly

equal, and longest; first primary equal to sixth; tarsus about equal to length of bill measured from the rictus; middle toe considerably shorter than tarsus (slightly less than exposed culmen); feathers of pileum lengthened and broad, forming when erected a full, rounded crest; along each side of the lower back and rump a conspicuous tuft of pure white cottony feathers. Color (both sexes) grayish above, with glossy black, full-crested pileum, the lower parts, sides of head (below eyes), nuchal collar, lores, and frontlet, white.

Xenopsaris albinucha (BURM.).

Pachyrhamphus albinucha BURM., P. Z. S., 1868, 635.

SP. CHAR.: *Adult* (No. 67388, U. S. National Museum, Rio de la Plata, Buenos Ayres; Dr. H. Burmeister): Entire pileum (except narrow frontal band), down to the middle of the eyes, glossy black, with a slight bluish luster; narrow frontal band (including nasal tufts), lores, suborbital region, ear-coverts, and entire under portion of head, neck, and body, white; a rather narrow grayish white nuchal collar (immediately below the black pileum); hind neck and back uniform ash-gray, the secondaries and rump similar but browner; wings, tail, and upper tail-coverts grayish brown, the wing-coverts narrowly and indistinctly margined with whitish, the tertials distinctly edged with white; tail darker than wings, especially towards the end, the shafts pale brown basally; outer tail-feather broadly edged and margined round end with white. Upper mandible, black; lower, grayish (plumbeous in life?); feet dusky in dried skin. Length (skin), 4.90; wing, 2.45; tail, 2.30; exposed culmen, 0.38; tarsus, about 0.48; * middle toe, about 0.35.

To his excellent description, cited above, Dr. Burmeister adds the following:

This small bird lives in the sedge of the shores of the Rio de la Plata, near Buenos Ayres, and has a somewhat melancholy temperament, sitting quite still in the same place a long time. Both sexes are alike in color, but the color of the male is much clearer, and the white nuchal band broader and more distinct.

* Feet considerably mutilated, so that exact measurements can not be taken.